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ancient period (zupa or pleme) has gradually changed into the modern tribe, bratstvo or *brotherhood*, and in which manner all the family relations have assumed another shape also. It is true that many of these Slavic practices and customs are barbaric or have originated in a barbaric age, that some of the superstitions are exceedingly repulsive, and that the position of woman is far from what it ought to be or even from what it is now among the nations of Western Europe. Nevertheless a certain spirit of poetry hovers over these populations, which are isolated from the rush of the world's commerce and have been so long subject to the iron rule of the Turk. Their love for music, poetry, dance, mimicry and fairy tales lets them forget many of their tribulations and miseries of everyday life, and here in Krauss' book are gathered the most naïve and surprising utterances of the popular spirit. The long and useful alphabetical index was made by a young lady of the village of Mikanovci, whose name is mentioned in the preface.—*Albert S. Gatschet.*

KINGSLEY'S MADAM HOW AND MADAM WHY.<sup>1</sup>—Charles Kingsley was no ordinary man, and no ordinary writer, and the republication among the Globe Readings of his little work, *Madam How and Madam Why*, will doubtless be welcomed by many of the class of little ones for whom it was written. It is true that to an adult the impersonation of method and reason as "*Madam How*" and "*Madam Why*," and that of analysis and synthesis as giants seems too metaphorical and somewhat old-fashioned, yet the charm of the style cannot be denied. A deeper objection to the title is, that we do not know the "*how*" or "*why*" of anything—we name the forces which move nature's scenery, but we understand them not. No one knew this better than Charles Kingsley, as may be seen by what he has to say with regard to analysis and synthesis. As a book for American children the value of this treatise is impaired by the fact that all the allusions and illustrations are European, or rather British.

EYFERTH'S NATURGESCHICHTE DER MIKROSKOPISCHEN SUSSWASSER BEWOHNER.<sup>2</sup>—This is a handy book for the student of fresh-water microscopic life, animal and vegetable, and appears to be tolerably well brought up to date. The leading authorities are given, while short family descriptions, a key to the genera, and a brief characterization of the genera and of quite a large number of species give all that is necessary to enable the observer to place any particular form among its relatives. The work is well indexed, and illustrated by seven full-page plates.

<sup>1</sup> *Madam How and Madam Why, or First Lessons in Earth-lore for Children.* By CHARLES KINGSLEY. New York, Macmillan & Co., 1885.

<sup>2</sup> *Die Einfachsten Lebensformen des Thier- und Pflanzenreiches.* Naturgeschichte der Mikroskopischen Süsswasser bewohner. Bearbeitet von B. EYFERTH. Braunschweig, Von Goeritz und zu Putlitz, 1885.